GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4477
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2010
CULTIVATION OF OPIUM
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests for notifying certain tracts for cultivation of opium has been received from the various States including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken on each such request;

(c) whether some States have been discriminated against in this regard, particularly the State of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b): Requests for allowing cultivation of opium poppy had been received from the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh (2001 & 2004), West Bengal (July 2004) and Uttarakhand(January 2010). Government of India did not consider the requests to be feasible in view of the fact that opium cultivation is carried out under strict licensing conditions and supervision of Central Bureau of Narcotics as also the fact that the requirement of opium for medicinal and scientific purposes is completely met from the licensed cultivation in notified tracts in the three traditional opium cultivation states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c): No State Government has been discriminated against in this regard.

(d): Not applicable in view of response to (c) above.